

OPINION 2240 (Case 3418)**Specific names of nine Australian birds (Aves) conserved**

Abstract. The Commission has conserved the usage of nine specific names of common Australian birds. The names were chosen as senior by First Revisers, but were later replaced almost a hundred years ago by simultaneously published names on grounds of page precedence. They have now been stabilised.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; *Anthochaera chrysoptera*; *Geopelia placida*; *Geopelia tranquilla*; *Gerygone olivacea*; *Grallina cyanoleuca*; *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*; *Lichenostomus melanops*; *Manorina melanocephala*; *Oriolus sagittatus*; *Psophodes olivaceus*; little wattlebird; peaceful dove; white-throated gerygone; magpielark; wonga pigeon; yellow-tufted honeyeater; noisy miner; olive-backed oriole; eastern whipbird; Australia.

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled:

(a) that the following specific names are suppressed for the Purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:

(i) *albogularis* Gould, 1838, as published in the binomen *Psilopus albogularis*;

(ii) *auricomis* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Muscicapa auricomis*;

(iii) *crepitans* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Muscicapa crepitans*;

(iv) *garrulus* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Merops garrulus*;

(v) *mellivora* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Certhia mellivora*;

(vi) *picata* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Columba picata*;

(vii) *picata* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Gracula picata*;

(viii) *viridis* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Gracula viridis*;

(b) that the name *placida* Gould, 1844, as published in the binomen *Geopelia placida*, is to be given precedence over the name *tranquilla* Gould, 1844, as published in the binomen *Geopelia tranquilla*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *chrysopterus* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Merops chrysopterus*;

(b) *cyanoleucus* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Corvus cyanoleucus*;

(c) *melanocephala* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Gracula melanocephala*;

- (d) *melanoleuca* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Columba melanoleuca*;
 - (e) *melanops* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Turdus melanops*;
 - (f) *olivaceus* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Corvus olivaceus*;
 - (g) *olivaceus* Gould, 1838, as published in the binomen *Psilopus olivaceus*;
 - (h) *placida* Gould, 1844, as published in the binomen *Geopelia placida*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *tranquilla* Gould, 1844, as published in the binomen *Geopelia tranquilla*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (i) *sagittata* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Coracias sagittata*;
 - (j) *tranquilla* Gould, 1844, as published in the binomen *Geopelia tranquilla*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *placida* Gould, 1844, as published in the binomen *Geopelia placida* whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:
- (a) *albogularis* Gould, 1838, as published in the binomen *Psilopus albogularis* and as suppressed in 1(a) above;
 - (b) *auricomis* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Muscicapa auricomis*, and as suppressed in 1(b) above;
 - (c) *crepitans* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Muscicapa crepitans*, and as suppressed in 1(c) above;
 - (d) *garrulus* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Merops garrulus*, and as suppressed in 1(d) above;
 - (e) *mellivora* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Certhia mellivora*, and as suppressed in 1(e) above.
 - (f) *picata* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Columba picata* and as suppressed in 1(f) above;
 - (g) *picata* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Gracula picata* and as suppressed in 1(g) above;
 - (h) *viridis* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Gracula viridis*, and as suppressed in 1(h) above;

History of Case 3418

An application to conserve the usage of nine specific names of common Australian birds by suppressing names chosen by First Revisers was received from Richard Schodde (*Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra, Australia*) and Walter J. Bock (*Columbia University, New York, NY, U.S.A.*) on 19 April 2007. After correspondence the case was published in BZN **65**: 35–41 (March 2008). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments were received on this case.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 2009 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN **65**: 38–39. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2009 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 17: Bouchet, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Kottelat, Krell, Lamas, Minelli, Ng, Pape, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol and Zhang.

Negative votes – 3: Bogutskaya, Kullander and Lim.

Alonso-Zarazaga split his vote, voting affirmative for proposals (2) and (3) and negative for proposals (1) and (4). Pyle was on leave of absence.

Kottelat explained that he voted FOR the proposals only in the hope of closing the case. He would have preferred it if these nine names had not been suppressed, but instead placed on the Official List, with mention that for each name the simultaneous synonym should be given precedence whenever the two are considered to be synonyms. Ng, also voting FOR, said he found it instructive that seemingly the preponderance of ornithologists has continued using the names as selected by line precedence rather than First Reviser principle. The latter rule was originally established to allow revisers to choose a name that best maintains stability, even if line precedence is not followed. This being the intent of the rule, he was therefore obliged to agree with the applicants that stability was best maintained through keeping the names as currently used.

Alonso-Zarazaga, SPLITTING his vote, said it was undesirable to suppress eight specific names of birds that may be needed in the future, since they are subjective synonyms. He was against this waste of names for sibling or sub-species uncovered by using more sensitive techniques such as DNA sequencing. Alonso-Zarazaga advocated that, in general, when the Commission screens submitted applications, it should discourage authors from applying for plain suppressions. He suggested that reversals of precedence achieve stability and are a more elegant nomenclatural solution.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

- albogularis*, *Psilopus*, Gould, 1838, *A synopsis of the birds of Australia and the adjacent islands*, Part 4, pl. 61.
- auricomis*, *Muscicapa*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, p. 49.
- chrysopterus*, *Merops*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, p. 33.
- crepitans*, *Muscicapa*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, p. 51.
- cyanoleucus*, *Corvus*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, p. 25.
- garrulous*, *Merops*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, p. 34.
- melanocephala*, *Gracula*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, p. 28.
- melanoleuca*, *Columba*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, p. 59.
- melanops*, *Turdus*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, p. 40.
- mellivora*, *Certhia*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, p. 37.

- olivaceus*, *Corvus*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, p. 26.
- olivaceus*, *Psilopus*, Gould, 1838, *A synopsis of the birds of Australia and the adjacent islands*, Part 4, pl. 61.
- picata*, *Columba*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, p. 59.
- picata*, *Gracula*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, p. 29.
- placida*, *Geopelia*, Gould, 1844, *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, **12**: 55.
- sagittata*, *Coracias*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, p. 26.
- tranquilla*, *Geopelia*, Gould, 1844, *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, **12**: 56.
- viridis*, *Gracula*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, p. 28.